

CHILD PROTECTION ACCOUNTABILITY COMMISSION
Education Committee

March 26, 2019; 1 to 3 p.m.

Collette Resource Center, Conference Room A

DRAFT

Meeting: The Child Protection Accountability Commission (CPAC) Education Subcommittee was called to order on March 26, 2019 at 1:09 p.m. at the Collette Resource Center by Chairperson Susan Haberstroh.

Attendees:

Committee Members:

Barbara Crowell, Family Court
Jennifer Davis, DOE
Harvey Doppelt, DSCYF
Jay (John) Eberly, Deputy Attorney General
Susan Haberstroh, DOE
Kathryn Herel, Parent Information Center
Trinette Redinger Ramsey, DFS
Brittany Willard, OCA

Non Committee Members:

Cora Scott, Brandywine School District
Patrick Adiadu, Kind to Kids
Brian Moore, DOE
Caroline Jones, Kind to Kids

Agenda Topics

I. Welcome and Introductions:

Everyone was welcomed to the meeting and introductions made.

II. Approval of Minutes:

Dr. Susan Haberstroh asked for the committee members to review the meeting minutes from the December 12, 2018 meeting. A motion was made by Judge Crowell and seconded by Brittany Willard to accept the meeting minutes as presented. Motion passed.

III. Workgroup Updates as needed:

- a. Title IX: Brian Moore stated that the Title IX workgroup held their first meeting on March 7th. The goal of the group is to create a best practice process document, provide training in order to be in compliance with Title IX, and provide guidance on how to properly document investigations. Delaware is in compliance with student on student alleged sexual misconduct. Mr. Moore stated there is confusion among the parties involved when to report to DSCYF and when not to report. A small law enforcement group has been created out of this group and they meet on Friday, March 29th at the DE State Policy Museum from 1pm until 3pm. Dr. Haberstroh asked when the process documents would be ready and Brian Moore stated they should be available for the CPAC Education Committee to review at the July, 2019 meeting.

- b. Non-Academic Trainings: Dr. Haberstroh stated that the primary focus at this time is around the personal body safety curriculum that all districts and charters must have in place by the 2019-2020 school year. There are four programs that have been approved for the LEAs to choose from. Each LEA has identified a contact person as required by law and Brian Moore is maintaining a list. Dr. Haberstroh stated that 14 schools have identified the curriculum they will be using and Mr. Moore's office has communicated the requirement via the Chiefs and Principals memo and made presentations at the Communications and Collaboration Network meetings, Human Resources Directors meeting and other various venues. Of the 14 schools that have chosen their curriculum, 8 have chosen Prevent Child Abuse DE (PCAD), which is the Be SMART Program. The concern is that PCAD is currently at capacity. Dr. Haberstroh stated at the full CPAC Commission meeting held on March 26, 2019 Tania Culley is trying to develop a plan to get additional resources for PCAD if they are needed. Dr. Haberstroh stated the department has created a tracking system for LEAs to assist with tracking the non-academic trainings and the hours associated with the requirements.

Dr. Haberstroh stated that for Teen Dating Violence and Sexual Assault, Bullying and Gang Activity Awareness, Suicide Prevention, and Child Abuse and Child Safety all working groups are working on adding additional modules so there will be options available to meet the required training hours.

Judge Crowell asked if we are seeing an increase or decrease on suicides statewide. Brian Moore stated that law enforcement have had an increase in response for mental health issues because of social media and cyber bullying behavioral issues. Judge Crowell asked, what the process is on notifying schools is when a youth is picked up by law enforcement. Mr. Moore stated that there is a process in placement for notifying school administration.

- c. Data Workgroup: Brittany Willard did a power point presentation on 2017-2018 Education Data and a handout was provided on the presentation. In 2017 there were 595 students in foster care compared to 509 in 2018. It should be noted that the numbers reflect students that could have been placed in foster care anytime during the year for any length of time which can skew the numbers. Slides were shown and discussion were held on average daily attendance, chronic absences, special education rates and assessment-proficiency rates. Concerns were raised with what is happening around 9th grade. Judge Crowell stated that a lot of kids drop out in 9th grade. Mr. Moore stated that 9th grade is when a lot of suspensions and expulsions occur. Dr. Doppelt stated it would be interesting to look at the data for these students and special education classifications. Brittany Willard stated the problem you run into as you drill further down into data is suppression rules because you cannot report out on data once it reaches 15 or below because of FERPA. It was also noted that a

special education classification is not necessarily a negative and shows these students are being identified and provided services based on their needs.

- IV. Presentation on Kind to Kids:** Caroline Jones and Patrick Adiadu did a presentation on the UGrad program being run by the Kind to Kids Foundation's program. This program is for high school youth in Delaware's foster care system and was founded in 2008 and became a 501 (3)© in 2011. Trinette Redinger Ramsey asked if the program was statewide and Caroline Jones stated yes. Cora Scott asked for additional clarification on eligibility. The program is open to all foster students in grades 9 to 12 who are currently enrolled in public high schools and have the ability to function in a classroom setting. Students that are not eligible are students that attend an alternative school, have truancy issues, and have criminal history. Discussion was held on what is criminal history. Mr. Eberly asked if a student is moved to an alternative school what happens. Once a student is in the program they remain in the program. All students who participate in the program receive a life skills book as they age out of the program. Dr. Haberstroh asked if they had thought about an app and Caroline Jones stated the app should be launched within the next week. Judge Crowell stated that she felt the Independent Living Worker was already doing a lot of the same work this group was already doing; however, Kathryn Herel stated this group is an additional resource and it is not a duplication of resources. John Eberly stated the youth's attorney should also be involved in discussions, etc. Dr. Haberstroh asked how long the grant was for and it was stated the grant is for 2-years with an option to renew. Discussion was held that it may be good to start with the youth in 8th grade and help them transition into high school. Caroline Jones stated as their program grows they are looking at starting in middle school. Dr. Doppelt stated that if you get sponsors than maybe the program could also look at taking youth with criminal history and those in alternative schools who could benefit from the program.
- V. Goals for the Committee:** Dr. Haberstroh stated Eliza Hirst had approached her about setting goals for the remainder of this year and for next year. Dr. Haberstroh asked for suggestions from the committee members. Kathryn Herel stated that she feels there are a lot more initiatives for young kids and programs to assist with transitions but not a lot of assistance for older students. Judge Crowell stated she also sees a lot of assistance for the younger kids in placing them with foster families but not with the older youth. Mr. Eberly asked Jennifer Davis and Judge Crowell whether they see the youth coming into DSCYF have school stability while moving from family members. Judge Crowell said it depends. Dr. Haberstroh stated the Comprehensive Student report that is available in EdInsight (Dashboard) is not perfect but she believes it has become a valuable source for all members of a foster case youth's team. Judge Crowell stated this has been a big help for the lawyers, DFS workers and Judges.

Kathryn Herel stated that one issue remaining is getting records transferred in a timely manner between districts. Dr. Haberstroh said that should not be an issue because it states in regulation the time allowed for records to be transferred. Jennifer Davis said the process has improved greatly in this area. The problem comes into play when there have been different placements and the schools do not have access to that information. Mr. Eberly said this is a concern of his, that data exist among state agencies but because of privacy, different agencies cannot access what is needed to help the youth.

Dr. Haberstroh stated she believes she is hearing the goal should be to focus on the older youth and youth in transitions between schools and from foster home to home.

Trinette Redinger Ramsey brought up for discussion a youth placed on a safety plan by DSCYF is no longer considered a homeless student. Therefore, they no longer qualify for McKinney-Vento Services which means they do not get transportation services back to the school they are attending. She stated this is causing a problem with getting the children to school. Cora Scott stated in their district they let it become an emergency choice option; however, it still remains a transportation issue.

Dr. Haberstroh stated that she sees where a resource document could be useful.

VI. Other Information: Judge Crowell stated that this would be her last meeting as she is retiring in June, 2019. She is very proud of all the work this committee has done.

VII. Public Comment: None

VIII. Next Meeting Dates 2019 –

- July 16, 2019 – Collette Education Building, Room A, Dover, DE
- September 17, 2019 – Collette Education Building, Room A, Dover, DE

IX. Meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m. with a motion by John Eberly and seconded by Brittany Willard, motion passed.